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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Braden & Buchanan STATION WRC Radio
DATE May 16, 1979 4:35 PM CITY Washington, D. C.
SUBJECT SALT Verification

CALLER: ...I'd like to say something to the candidates, whomever they may be, with respect to SALT.

TOM BRADEN: Go ahead.

CALLER: That is this. Basically the information I want to pass on is with respect to verification.

There are four Rhyolite spacecraft in geosynchronous orbit 25,000 miles from earth. One is over the Horn of Africa, which monitors liquid fuel testing. Another, slightly east, monitors solid fuel testing.

BRADEN: Monitors what?

CALLER: Solid fuel testing.

PAT BUCHANAN: Solid fuel testing of rockets.

BRADEN: Yeah.

CALLER: Now, the strength of the signal from telemetry is inversely proportional to the distance. Now when we were 700 miles away in Iran, our signal was reasonably strong. Now that we're receiving them only by spacecraft, it is 1/1000th of the signal in strength.

BUCHANAN: You're not giving away anything classified now, are you?

CALLER: No, I wouldn't be on the radio giving out classified information.

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BRADEN: Okay.

BUCHANAN: Okay.

CALLER: All right. Please bear with me.

BRADEN: We'll take your word for it.

CALLER: Now, most of the telemetry information is transmitted on 15 VHF band. The most important information is used on the highest frequency.

Now we have apparently agreed, much to my personal dismay, to permit the Soviet to encrypt data on information that would not be considered vital for verification purposes.

BUCHANAN: Can I ask you where you work?

CALLER: No. Okay?

BUCHANAN: Uh-huh.

CALLER: You know, I'm an independent analyst.

Now, when it comes to that, by permitting that, we're opening a very, very dangerous situation. Here's why.

For example, if they are allowed that under the present terms, and I mean the very latest terms that came to town with Vance, we'd have the following situation develop. The Soviets would be literally allowed to encrypt data, for example, pertaining to the rate of fuel consumption....

BUCHANAN: Right. And you know something. I think we're going to have to interrupt you here for this reason, that, (a), we've got to go to Willard, and, (b), you're dealing in great detail with particular aspects of the SALT treaty with which we're not familiar and most of our listeners are not familiar.

CALLER: Well, I'm not talking about very arcane information. I mean this is very basic. And I'd like to say just one thing.

BRADEN: All right. Say it. Say it.

BUCHANAN: Okay.

CALLER: Well, that is this, that if we allow them to do that, for example encrypt rates of fuel consumption, we will not be able to deduct information from that that would be pertinent to the range, the throw-weight or the lift-weight, the weight at lift-off....

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BRADEN: Okay.

BUCHANAN: Okay. Appreciate it.

BRADEN: Thank you.

CALLER: Right.

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